

REMARKS

Claims

Claims 40, 41, 44-56, 79, 80, 83-88 and 92-95 stand rejected. Applicant has cancelled claims 40, 41, 44-56 without prejudice. Applicant has also cancelled claim 79 and amended claims 80, 83-88 and 92-95 to depend from allowable claim 89. No new matter has been added. Claims 57-62, 64, 66-78 and 89-91 are allowed. Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 40, 41, 44-56, 79, 80, 83-88 and 92-95 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,620,479 to Diederich in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,551,274 to Heiner. The Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of these claims over Diederich or Heiner, alone or in combination, but in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the present case, Applicant has cancelled claims 40, 41 and 44-56 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these cancelled claims in a divisional application.

Applicant has also cancelled independent claim 79, without prejudice, and amended claims 80, 83-88 and 92-95 to depend from independent claim 89. Applicant respectfully asserts that dependent claims 80, 83-88 and 92-95 are allowable because they now depend from an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment and Response addresses all of the Examiner's rejections and places the Application in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If a teleconference with the Examiner would expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number referenced below. The present Amendment and Response is being filed within the three-month statutory period. Therefore, it is believed that no additional fees are required. If for some reason it is determined that additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference No. 22163-3001).

Respectfully submitted,



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